GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2276
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
PROJECTS UNDER ECL
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 95 projects under the ECL, 40 projects have been closed down mid way;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by ECL as a result thereof;

(d) whether machinery procured from foreign, proved futile in the perspective of geographical condition of the collieries;

(e) whether ECL was provided with financial assistance in this regard from the Union Government;

(f) whether ECL authority could not give any clear account of expenses made so far to the Union Government;
(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(h) the action taken against the erring officials of the ECL in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. 40 projects of Eastern Coalfields Limited have been withdrawn due to the following reasons:-

i) Problems of land acquisition;
ii) Fund constraints;
iii) Adverse geo-mining conditions;
iv) Approval of Director General Mines Safety not granted.

(c): Total expenditure incurred in these projects is Rs.71.76 crores. Out of this, an amount of Rs.34.98 crores spent for procuring plant & machinery items is being gainfully utilised in existing mines. Rs.13.13 crores spent for prospecting and boring is being used for existing mines and will be used for future projects. Rs.5.88 crores spent for land acquisition and infrastructure developments like roads, water supply etc. are being used for existing mines. Remaining balance expenditure made for mine development is in use in existing mines and will also be used for future mines.

(d): No foreign machinery was procured for these 40 projects.

(e): Yes, Sir. Budgetary support was given to ECL till 1996.

(f): No, Sir. ECL have provided clear accounts for these projects.

(g) & (h): Do not arise in view of (f) above.